

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

The Office Action mailed April 21, 2003 rejected all pending claims 1-5. Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Specifically, the weight ratio relation "5 to 5 ~ 6 to 4" is alleged not enabling. Claims 1-5 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the weight ratio relation "5 to 5 ~ 6 to 4" is alleged unclear, applicant improperly uses the acronym PP for polypropylene and, in line 5 of claim 1, applicant mistakenly uses the term "PP foaming *fiber*" instead of the intended term "PP foaming *resin*".

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 3-5 to more clearly define the present invention and to correct the above informalities. It is believed that the amendments do not add any new matter to the present invention. Reconsideration of claims 1-5 is respectfully requested.

Summary of Applicant's Invention

Applicant's invention is directed to a thermoplastic felt structure for an automobile interior substrate, the thermoplastic felt structure comprising a pair of mat units, each mat unit having a felt layer which is made by a mixture of a jute fiber and a polypropylene fiber mixed in the weight ratio of about 5 parts by weight jute fiber to 5 parts by weight polypropylene fiber to about 6 parts by weight jute fiber to 4 parts by weight polypropylene fiber, and a polypropylene foaming resin adhered to one side of the felt layer, said mat units being coupled to each other on the other sides of the felt layers.

Discussion of Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph

Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as being not described in the specification in such a way as to enable on skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Specifically, the weight ratio relation "5 to 5 ~ 6 to 4" is alleged not enabling.

Applicant respectfully traverse the rejection for the reasons discussed below.

The original claim 1 recites "a felt layer which is made by a mixture of a jute fiber and a PP fiber mixed in the weight ratio of about 5 to 5 ~ 6 to 4". In other words, the weight ratio of the jute fiber to the PP fiber is in the range of about 5:5 to 6:4. This is fully supported and enabled by the specification. In the last paragraph on page 6 of the specification, it is described that "the felt layer 111 is made by mixing a jute fiber with a PP fiber in the weight ratio of 5 to 5 ~ 6 to 4". In the first paragraph on page 7 of the specification, it is described that "the felt layer 111 according to the present invention can accomplish the balance between the strength and stiffness and the plasticity by adjusting the mixing ratio of the jute fiber to the PP fiber in the range of 5 to 5 ~ 6 to 4".

The term "5 to 5 ~ 6 to 4" as used in original claim 1 may have caused confusion. Therefore, applicant has amended claim 1 to more clearly define the present invention. Specifically, the phrase "a felt layer which is made by a mixture of a jute fiber and a PP fiber mixed in the weight ratio of about 5 to 5 ~ 6 to 4" has been amended to read "a felt layer which is made by a mixture of a jute fiber and a polypropylene fiber mixed in the weight ratio from about 5 parts by weight jute fiber to 5 parts by weight polypropylene fiber to about 6 parts by weight jute fiber to 4 parts by weight polypropylene fiber". For reasons discussed above, this amendment is fully supported by the original disclosure.

Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Discussion of Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-5 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, in independent claim 1 the weight ratio relation "5 to 5 ~ 6 to 4" is unclear, throughout the claims, applicant improperly uses the acronym PP for polypropylene, and, in line 5 of claim 1, applicant mistakenly claimed "PP foaming *fiber*..." instead of the intended "PP foaming *resin*...".

Independent claim 1 has been amended to replace the phrase "5 to 5 ~ 6 to 4", the acronym PP has been amended throughout the claims to read "polypropylene", and, in line 5 of claim 1, applicant has amended "PP foaming *fiber*..." to read "PP foaming *resin*...".

In view of the above amendments, the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, paragraph 2, are met. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

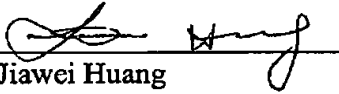
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the amended claims 1-5 comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraphs, and are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Date: 6/18/2003

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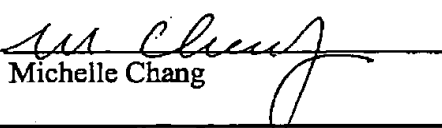
BY FACSIMILE ONLY

Fax No. : 703-872-9310
Attention : Examiner TORRES VELAZQUEZ, NORCA LIZ
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From : Jiawei Huang, Reg. No. 43,330
MESSAGE : Enclosed is an Amendment in 5 pages.

Sir:

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